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CHARGE SHADY WORK.

Say Government Employees Secure
Supply Contracts.

Honolulu, Dec. 10.—Governor Carter will investigate charges made by the Merchants' Association that government employees are selling supplies to the government and bidding on public contracts. The Merchants' Association objects to the practice of employees, whose salaries they help pay in taxes, and who conduct their business from government offices, selling supplies to the Territory.

This objection is strongly stated in the following letter sent to Governor Carter in which there is the intimation that the practice borders on the criminal:

Honolulu, Nov. 27, 1903.
Hon. Geo. R. Carter, Governor
Territory of Hawaii, Honolulu,
T. H.

Sir: It has come to the notice of this Association that certain government employees are selling supplies to the government and bidding on government contracts. At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Merchants' Association I was directed to communicate with you in relation thereto and to protest against its continuance. We believe the business men of the Territory, who pay the taxes, licenses, rents and hire employees should alone be allowed to furnish government supplies and bid on government contracts, and we submit that it is manifestly unjust that employees of the government, whose salaries are paid by the business community, whose offices are indirectly supplied them by the government and who pay no taxes, licenses or rents should be allowed to compete directly or indirectly. Aside from the moral aspect there are certain criminal features and on the mainland in almost every State of the Union this is made a penal offense. For the results of this practice we would refer you to the present postal frauds, St. Louis and other scandals which are constantly being brought to light throughout the Union. We feel certain that by bringing the matter to your notice at this time that the practice will be stopped before it has been allowed to reach such proportions.

I am respectfully,

P. R. HELM,

Secretary Merchants' Association of Honolulu.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Merchants' Association yesterday the reply was received from Governor Carter and the correspondence given out. Mr. Carter promised to take the matter up.

His letter was as follows:

Honolulu, Dec. 5, 1903.
Hon. G. W. Smith, Vice-President
Merchants' Association, Honolulu.

Dear Sir: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the communication from your Secretary, dated November 27th, calling attention to the fact that employees of the government are selling supplies to the government and bidding on government contracts.

The matter will receive due consideration and I thank you for calling attention to the fact.

Very sincerely yours,

G. R. CARTER,
Governor.

Japs After County Act.

Honolulu, Dec. 10.—When F. M. Hatch reaches Washington and attempts to secure the enactment of the county law by Congress, he is likely to run up against international complications. M. Saito, Japanese Consul General for Hawaii, has written to the Japanese Minister at Washington in regard to the county act and the latter has agreed to protect the Japanese in Hawaii in their treaty rights, which they claim are threatened in the hackman's license clause. This section compels every hackman to be able to read and write the English or Hawaiian language, and the Japanese claim that they are being discriminated against. Council Saito said yesterday that he had no objection to the county act as a whole, but that he did intend to fight the hackmen's clause.

OAHU THE KEY.

MacArthur Says That Island Will
be Made Impregnable.

Honolulu, Dec. 9.—At a conference yesterday morning between General MacArthur and a committee from the Merchants' Association, the commander of the Department of California, which includes Hawaii, gave a positive assurance that Honolulu would get an army post. The association on the other hand assured General MacArthur of its hearty support and its desire to assist him in every way possible during his stay in the islands.

The Merchants' Association also assured General MacArthur that supplies would be furnished to the army at reasonable rates and that there would be no attempt to hold up the United States government. The members of the committee who visited the General were G. W. Smith, F. W. Macfarland, P. R. Helm and R. H. Trent. The conference was lengthy and General MacArthur outlined the results of his investigations in the islands.

General MacArthur believes strongly in the necessity for making the Island of Oahu impregnable. He told the committee that he considered Oahu the key to the entire group from a strategic point of view. He says that the recommendations of the Heuer board, if followed out, would make the island one of the strongest fortified places in the world. General MacArthur will probably recommend that the plans of this board be followed out in dealing with the situation here. Pearl Harbor will be made impregnable and then there will be a strong mobile force to repel any attempts at landing. General MacArthur believes that the force to be finally stationed here will consist of a regiment of infantry and two batteries of field artillery. With this force and the aid of the local forces General MacArthur thought that 3,000 men could be counted upon to resist attacks. General MacArthur told the committee that the date for the establishment of the army post depended entirely upon the action of Congress in making appropriations. It is pretty well settled that the post will be established at Kahauiki but leases upon that property, which is owned in fee by the United States, will first have to be obtained. This will now have to await a new appropriation by Congress. The lease owners are ready to sell their rights but there has been some delay in negotiations. It is the intention as has already been often stated, to post shore batteries in a position to protect Pearl Harbor from either side, while there will also be field artillery force to repel land attacks.

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